



Food and Nutrition Information Center
National Agricultural Library/USDA
10301 Baltimore Avenue, Room 105
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Dietary Supplements: General Resources for Consumers

December 2006

This publication is a listing of resources providing an overview of herbal and dietary supplements, including their appropriate use, their regulation, the level of research behind certain claims, and cautionary information. These resources include bibliographies, bibliographic databases, books, book chapters, booklets, newsletters, web resources and agencies and organizations. For professional-level and technical resources, see

Dietary Supplements: Additional Resources for Professionals

http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/pubs/bibs/gen/dietsupp_prof.html

This list refers to evidence-based information about dietary supplements, and is not intended to provide specific medical advice. The Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC) urges you to consult with a qualified physician, pharmacist and/or registered dietitian concerning the use of any dietary supplements. The use of trade, firm, or corporation names in this publication is for the information and convenience of the reader. Such use does not constitute an official endorsement or approval by the Federal government.

The resources listed contain accurate nutrition information and are available nationwide. Opinions expressed in the publications do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Your local library or bookstore can help you locate these resources. Materials cannot be purchased from the National Agricultural Library. Please contact the publisher/producer if you wish to purchase any materials on this list.

This resource list is available from the FNIC web site at

http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/pubs_and_db.html.

Each item has been placed in one or more of the following categories:

- I. Bibliographies/Bibliographic Databases
- II. Books, Book Chapters and Booklets
- III. Newsletters
- IV. Web Resources
- V. Agencies and Organizations

I. Bibliographies/Bibliographic Databases (in alphabetical order)

HerbMed®

Alternative Medicine Foundation, Inc.

Web site: <http://www.herbmed.org>

Description: This online interactive herbal database provides links to categorized summaries of research studies and other resources on specific herbs. The database currently contains free information on the use of 40 herbs.

International Bibliographic Information on Dietary Supplements (IBIDS) Database

National Institutes of Health, Office of Dietary Supplements and the National Agricultural Library, Food and Nutrition Information Center

Web site: http://ods.od.nih.gov/Health_Information/IBIDS.aspx

Description: IBIDS is a database containing title, author, and citation information on the topics of herbs, botanicals, vitamins, minerals, and other dietary supplements. Most records include abstracts. Consumers may be interested in using the database of non technical material called the Consumer Database. Other features of note are keyword/synonym searching and the Health Outcomes which provide records on supplements paired with specific health or disease states.

National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) on PubMed

National Institutes of Health

Web site: <http://nccam.nih.gov/camonpubmed/>

Description: CAM is a subset of PubMed which offers free access to over 11 million citations and abstracts on complementary and alternative medicine from the National Library of Medicine's MEDLINE database and other life science journals.

II. Books, Book Chapters and Booklets (in alphabetical order)

Buyer's Guide to Herbs and Supplements

Harvard Health Publications, Harvard Medical School and National Standard

Web site:

http://www.health.harvard.edu/special_health_reports/Buyers_Guide_to_Herbs_and_Supplements.htm

Description: Order this 48 page publication online. Scientific-based information on dietary supplements including health claims, research, and safety and effectiveness of top-selling supplements.

Consumer's Guide to Dietary Supplements and Alternative Medicines

W. Marvin Davis

Binghamton, NY: Pharmaceutical Products Press, 2006. 532 pp.

ISBN: 0789030411

Description: Provides a background of dietary supplements and summarizes the good vs. bad claims based on scientific references.

Dietary Supplements: A Consumer Guide

National Consumers League, Consumer Healthcare Products Association

Web site: <http://www.nclnet.org/dietsuppsbrochure.pdf>

Description: This brochure on dietary supplements provides consumer-friendly facts on regulations, dietary supplement labels, and terminology.

III. Newsletters (in alphabetical order)

Consumer Health Digest

The National Council Against Health Fraud

Web site: <http://www.ncahf.org/digest/chd.html>

Description: Free weekly email newsletter which summarizes legislative updates, scientific reports, web site evaluations and other topics relating to consumer health choices.

Dietary Supplements/Food Labeling Electronic Newsletter (FDA DSFL)

Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling, and Dietary Supplements (ONPLDS) in the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)

Web site: <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/fda-dsfl.html>

Description: Free electronic newsletter with access to key information and updates on dietary supplements, food labeling, and nutrition-related issues. Past issues may be viewed online.

Ordering information: <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/infonet.html>

HerbalGram

American Botanical Council

Web site: <http://www.herbalgram.org/herbalgram/default.asp>

Description: This quarterly, peer-reviewed publication primarily focuses on medicinal herbs and has a scientific and educational emphasis.

Subscription Address:

6200 Manor Rd

Austin, TX 78723

Phone: (512) 926-4900

Email: abc@herbalgram.org

IV. Web Resources (in alphabetical order)

About Herbs, Botanicals & Other Products

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Web site: <http://www.mskcc.org/mskcc/html/11570.cfm>

Description: Evidence-based information about herbs, botanicals, vitamins and other supplements.

Arthritis Today's 2005 Vitamin Guide

Arthritis Foundation

Web site:

http://www.arthritis.org/resources/arthritis-today/2005_archives/2005_09_10/Vitamin_Mineral_Guide/default.asp

Description: Contains a brief summary of vitamins and minerals and supplement use.

ClinicalTrials.gov

National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health

Web site: <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/>

Description: Provides information on ongoing clinical trials open to public participation. Includes many trials involving dietary supplements.

Complementary and Alternative Medicine in Cancer Treatment: Questions and Answers

National Cancer Institute, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Web site: <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/treatment/cam>

Description: This web page provides a listing of patient-oriented fact sheets on specific herbs and supplements.

Dietary Supplements

U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

Web site: <http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/supplmnt.html>

Description: This web site includes warnings and safety information, adverse event reporting, announcements and meetings, general information, industry information, and frequently requested information about dietary supplements.

Dietary Supplements: Facts vs. Fad

Nemours Foundation. TeensHealth.

Web site: http://kidshealth.org/teen/food_fitness/dieting/diet_supplements.html

Description: Information for teens on how to evaluate claims made in dietary supplement advertisements.

Functional Foods Fact Sheet: Antioxidants

Functional Foods Fact Sheet: Omega-3 Fatty Acids

Functional Foods Fact Sheet: Soy

International Food Information Council (IFIC)

Web site: <http://ifc.org/publications/factsheets/antioxidantfs.cfm>

<http://ifc.org/publications/factsheets/omega3fs.cfm>

<http://ifc.org/publications/factsheets/soyfs.cfm>

Description: A review of antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, and soy, including health effects and recent research findings.

Herbs at a Glance

National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Web site: <http://nccam.nih.gov/health/herbsataglance.htm>

Description: Fact sheets that provide a brief overview of selected herbs and botanicals.

Herbal Products and Supplements: What You Should Know

American Academy of Family Physicians

Web site: <http://familydoctor.org/860.xml>

Description: Questions and answers about herbal products including safety and possible side effects.

MayoClinic.com

Web site: <http://www.mayoclinic.com/>

Description: Enter the term “Dietary Supplements” into the search box to locate a variety of articles pertaining to dietary supplements.

MedlinePlus: Drugs, Supplements & Herbal Information

U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health

Web site: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginformation.html>

Description: Users can browse for information on herbs and supplements for links to authoritative health information.

NIH Dietary Supplement Fact Sheets

Office of Dietary Supplements, National Institutes of Health

Web site:

http://ods.od.nih.gov/Health_Information/Information_About_Individual_Dietary_Supplements.aspx

Description: Fact sheets on vitamins, minerals, herbal, botanical and other dietary supplements.

Nutritional Supplements

The National Center for DrugFree Sport, Inc.

Web site: <http://www.drugfreesport.com/choices/supplements/index.html>

Description: Provides information on the banned status of substances including dietary supplements.

Vitamins

Harvard School of Public Health

Web site: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/vitamins.html>

Description: Summary of vitamins and their role in health and disease.

Vitamin and Mineral Supplements

American Heart Association (AHA)

Web site: <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=4788>

Description: Scientific position paper on vitamin and mineral supplement use. Links to other AHA scientific papers on antioxidant vitamins and fish and omega-3 fatty acids.

What Dietary Supplements Are You Taking?

National Institutes of Health, Office of Dietary Supplements

Web site: <http://ods.od.nih.gov/pubs/partnersbrochure.asp>

Description: Overview of dietary supplements including a nutrition assessment and diary for consumers and health care providers.

What's in the Bottle? An Introduction to Dietary Supplements

National Institutes of Health, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Web site: <http://nccam.nih.gov/health/bottle/>

Description: Fact sheet that answers questions about supplements, their use, and health claims.

V. Agencies and Organizations (in alphabetical order)

American Botanical Council

6200 Manor Road

Austin, TX 78723

(512) 926-4900

(512) 926-2345 (Fax)

Web site: <http://www.herbalgram.org>

Description: The American Botanical Council is a non-profit research and educational organization focusing on educating about beneficial herbs and plants and to promote the safe and effective use of medicinal plants.

American Council on Science and Health

1995 Broadway
Second Floor
New York, NY 10023-5860
(212) 362-7044
(212) 362-4919 (Fax)

Web site: <http://www.acsh.org/>

Description: The American Council on Science and Health is a consumer education consortium concerned with issues related to food, nutrition, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, lifestyle, the environment and health.

Consumer Lab.com

ConsumerLab.com, LLC
333 Mamaroneck Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
(914) 722-9149
For Licensing, Advertising, or Technical Reports: (609) 936-0770

Web site: <http://www.consumerlab.com/>

Description: Provides consumers and healthcare professionals with results of independent tests of the quality of health and nutrition products including dietary supplements.

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

CRC-240
Washington, D.C. 20580
(202) 326-2222

Web site: <http://www.ftc.gov/index.html>

Description: The FTC enforces a variety of federal antitrust and consumer protection laws. The web site provides links to news releases related to dietary supplement products.

Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC)

National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Avenue, Room 105
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351.
(301) 504-5719
(301) 504-6409 (Fax)

Web site: <http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/>

Description: Part of the United States Department of Agriculture, the FNIC web site has a large range of food and nutrition resources for both professionals and the public. Click on the “Dietary Supplements” link on the left-hand menu.

Health Canada

A.L. 0900C2
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0K9
(866) 225-0709 (Toll-Free) or (613) 957-2991
(613) 941-5366 (Fax)

Web site: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/index_e.html

Description: Provides public with warnings about potential hazards of food, drugs, natural health products, and consumer products.

The Healthy Competition Foundation

PO Box 81289

Chicago, IL 60681-0289

(312) 297-5824

Web site: <http://www.healthycompetition.org/>

Description: A web site of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association which seeks to educate young people and their families about the potential health dangers of sports supplements and provides their position on creatine supplements.

Herb Research Foundation

4140 15th St.

Boulder, CO 80304

(303) 449-2265.

(303) 449-7849

Web site: <http://www.herbs.org/>

Description: The Herb Research Foundation is a non-profit research and educational organization focusing on herbs and medicinal plants.

The Johns Hopkins Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Room 7400, 1830 Building

1830 E. Monument St.

Baltimore, MD 21287

(410) 614-5678

(410) 614-7552

Web site: <http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/CAM/>

Description: Research center focusing on complementary and alternative medicine as it relates to cancer and cancer treatments. Lists current projects using herbs for cancer treatment. Provides links to ongoing research studies.

International Food Information Council (IFIC)

IFIC Foundation

1100 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Suite 430

Washington D.C. 20036

(202) 296-6540

(202) 296-6547

Web site: <http://ific.org/>

Description: Includes newsletters, fact sheets (antioxidants, soy, omega-3 fatty acids, and stanol esters) and web site information on functional foods and supplements.

MedWatch

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

5600 Fishers Lane

Rockville, MD 20857

(888) 463-6332 Toll-Free

Web site: <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/report/consumer/consumer.htm>

Description: FDA's safety information line where consumers can report serious reactions and quality problems with dietary supplement products.

Micronutrient Information Center

The Linus Pauling Institute, Oregon State University
571 Weniger Hall
Corvallis, OR 97331-6512
(541)737-5075
(541)737-5077 (Fax)

Web site: <http://lpi.orst.edu/infocenter/>

Description: Provides scientific information on the role of vitamins, minerals, and phytochemicals in preventing disease and promoting health.

National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine, Food and Nutrition Board

500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 334-2352
(202) 334-1412 (Fax)

Web site: <http://www.iom.edu/CMS/3788.aspx>

Description: Contains the Dietary Reference Intakes and Recommended Dietary Allowances for macronutrients, vitamins and minerals.

National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM)**National Institutes of Health**

NCCAM Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 7923
Gaithersburg, MD 20898
(888) 644-6226 (Toll-Free)
(866) 464-3616 (Fax)

Web site: <http://nccam.nih.gov/>

Description: Supports basic and applied research and training and provides information on complementary and alternative medicine to practitioners and the public.

National Council Against Health Fraud (NCAHF)

119 Foster Street
Peabody, MA 01960
(978) 532-9383

Web site: <http://www.ncahf.org/>

Description: The NCRHI is a non-profit, voluntary health agency that focuses its attention upon health fraud, misinformation and quackery as public health problems.

The National Institutes of Health, Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS)

6100 Executive Blvd., Room 3B01, MSC 7517
Bethesda, MD 20892-7517
(301) 435-2920
(301) 480-1845 (Fax)

Web site: <http://dietary-supplements.info.nih.gov/>

Description: The ODS supports research and disseminates research results in the area of dietary supplements. Provides links for consumers and researchers on topics related to dietary supplements.

**The National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute,
Office of Cancer Complementary & Alternative Medicine**

6116 Executive Plaza North, Suite 609, MSC 8339

Bethesda, Maryland 20892

1-800-4CANCER (Cancer Information Service)

Web site: <http://www3.cancer.gov/occam/>

Description: Coordinates and promotes the activities of the National Cancer Institute in the area of complementary and alternative medicine.

Quackwatch

P.O. Box 1747

Allentown, PA 18105

(610) 437-1795

Web site: <http://www.quackwatch.com/>

Description: This non-profit organization investigates questionable claims related to health frauds and fads.

The Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Center for Complementary & Alternative Medicine

Columbia University, College of Physicians & Surgeons

630 W. 168th Street, Box 75

New York, NY 10032

(212) 342-0101

(212) 342-0100 (Fax)

Web site: <http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/rosenthal/>

Description: Conducts research on the effectiveness and safety of alternative medicine products and practices.

U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP)

(800) 227-8772

(301) 816-8148 (Fax)

Web site: <http://www.usp.org/>

Description: USP provides manufacturing standards for more than 3,700 medicines, dietary supplements, and dosage forms. Their web site provides monographs on selected dietary supplements.

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This publication was developed through a Cooperative Agreement between the Food and Nutrition Information Center and the Department of Nutrition and Food Science in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland.

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